

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior version, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1-10 (canceled).

11. (New) A method for triggering a restraint system, comprising:  
generating an acceleration signal that characterizes a collision;  
integrating the acceleration signal to form a speed signal;  
determining a threshold value for the speed signal based on the acceleration signal, the threshold value being adapted by a first variable that is determined from at least one of a plurality of characteristics of the acceleration signal, the speed signal and at least one further sensor signal; and  
triggering the restraint system as a function of a comparison of the speed signal with the threshold value.
12. (New) The method of claim 11, wherein the plurality of characteristics of the acceleration signal are determined as a function of at least one of a hammer blow, an integration window, a signal from an up-front sensor, a signal variation caused by a deformable barrier, and a pattern detection.
13. (New) The method of claim 11, further comprising:  
combining the plurality of characteristics by addition.
14. (New) The method of claim 11, wherein at least one amplifier is used to assess the first variable.
15. (New) The method of claim 14, wherein the at least one amplifier is adjusted adaptively.

16. (New) The method of claim 11, further comprising filtering the acceleration signal before determining the threshold value.
17. (New) The method of claim 11, wherein the first variable is determined by logically linking at least two of the plurality of characteristics.
18. (New) The method of claim 11, wherein the first variable is determined by logically linking at least one of the plurality of characteristics and the at least one sensor signal.
19. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein the linking is performed using a logic matrix.
20. (New) The method of claim 18, wherein the linking is performed using a logic matrix.
21. (New) The method of claim 19, wherein both dynamic and static characteristics are linked in the matrix.
22. (New) An apparatus for triggering a restraint system, comprising:  
    an arrangement for generating an acceleration signal that characterizes a collision;  
    an arrangement for integrating the acceleration signal to form a speed signal;  
    an arrangement for determining a threshold value for the speed signal based on the acceleration signal, the threshold value being adapted by a first variable that is determined from at least one of a plurality of characteristics of the acceleration signal, the speed signal and at least one further sensor signal; and  
    an arrangement for triggering the restraint system as a function of a comparison of the speed signal with the threshold value.
23. (New) The apparatus as recited in claim 22, wherein the plurality of characteristics of the acceleration signal are determined as a function of at least one of a hammer blow, an integration window, a signal from an up-front sensor, a signal variation caused by a deformable barrier, and a pattern detection.